

CRADA facts

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF FOSSIL ENERGY

CRADA opportunities
AT FETC

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS (CRADAs) AT FETC

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The Federal Energy Technology Center (FETC) is always interested in discussing partnering opportunities with those in the private sector. One way FETC can work with the private sector and academia is through Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs). What follows is a short discussion of CRADAs at FETC.

What is a CRADA?

The Federal Technology Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-502) provided a new mechanism for joint research between private parties and federal research laboratories. Joint projects under the law are called CRADAs. CRADAs are agreements between the federal government and the private sector to work together on a mutually beneficial project. Each partner in the CRADA applies whatever resources are agreed to in the performance of its portion of the project. These resources may include personnel, equipment, or facilities. While partner dollars may be used to fund portions of the Government effort, FETC may not provide funds to support the private-sector partner.

CRADAs are mutually beneficial for a number of reasons. First, intellectual property disposition under a CRADA is quite flexible. We can negotiate directly with the partner in terms of rights to patents, protection of information, and exclusive or non-exclusive licensing of inventions. Second, the private sector can take advantage of the government's unique research facilities. Also, a CRADA provides an opportunity to develop relationships between the government and private industry and builds constituencies.

What Makes a Good CRADA?

From FETC's perspective, a good CRADA consists of two elements: a good project and a good CRADA partner. Good CRADA projects address goals that are beneficial to both the private-sector participant and FETC.

Of primary interest to FETC is the development and deployment of clean, efficient power generation technologies and environmental remediation technologies. For power generation, FETC's primary focus is on developing cleaner, more efficient technologies that can be applied to existing plants and new technologies that can be applied to the next generation of power plants.

Regarding CRADA partners, preference is given to small businesses and to business units located in the United States which agree that products resulting from the CRADA will be manufactured substantially in the United States. In the case of foreign-owned companies, FETC will take into consideration how U.S.-based companies are dealt with in that country.

Projects will be undertaken based on factors such as those listed above, as well as the resources offered by the proposed participant, FETC resource availability, and the specific contribution of the project to FETC's research and development (R&D) program.

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How Do I Initiate a CRADA With FETC?

Since no funds are transferred from FETC to the private-sector partner, most of the regulations governing federal procurements do not apply, and as a result, CRADAs can be implemented relatively quickly with few complications.

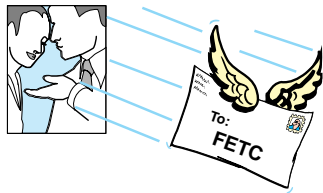
Generally, the first step in formalizing a CRADA is an expression of interest to FETC by the potential private-sector partner. This expression of interest, while it can be verbal, is most effective when it takes the form of a letter addressed to a FETC point of contact listed on the front of this factsheet.

The expression of interest triggers a series of discussions both within FETC and with the potential partner to decide whether FETC and the participant can define a project that will benefit both parties, and whether the needed resources are available to perform the envisioned work. Ultimately, the final decision of whether FETC will pursue a particular CRADA opportunity lies with the FETC Director.

The CRADA Process

1

Expression of Interest



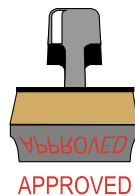
2

Discuss Idea



3

Management Approval



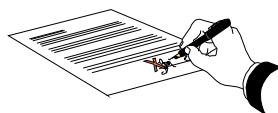
4

Develop CRADA



5

FETC Signatures Partners' Signatures



6

Winners' Circle



SIX STEPS TO INITIATE A CRADA

1. Expression of interest is addressed to FETC
2. CRADA Team discusses idea and whether the needed resources are available
3. Approval is given to develop CRADA
4. CRADA is developed
5. CRADA is signed
6. Everybody wins